

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board
May 18, 2006

Meeting held at:

City Administration Building
202 “C” Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

City of San Diego
Park & Recreation Board
202 “C” Street, MS 9B
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Ginny Barnes, Acting Chair
Norman Greene
Dan Mazzella
Bob Otilie
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds (2:17 arrival)
Robert Robinson
Wilbur Smith

Members Absent

Darlene Davies

Staff Present

Howard Greenstein
Jeff Harkness
Stacey LoMedico
Sally Pearson
April Penera
Deborah Sharpe

Ms. Davies gave notice that she would not be at today’s meeting
Ms. Hilda Mendoza, Deputy City Attorney, was not in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Barnes called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Mazzella/Mr. Greene

The Minutes of April 20, 2006 were unanimously approved by the Board.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMENTS OR ADDITIONS

None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Stacey LoMedico, Community Parks II Deputy Director, filling in for Mr. Ted Medina, Park and Recreation Director who is out of town, reported on the following:

- Dorothy Petway Park Grand Opening will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 20.
- Community Garden Workshop is scheduled from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21 at Sherman Heights Community Center.
- A joint budget and City Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24. Specifics on the budget can be found on the webpage under “Supplemental Documents.” Responses to Council requests will be posted there as well.
- Within the next few months, a memo will be coming from the Director’s office regarding Standard Operating Procedures/Special Use Permit (SOP/SUP) for Recreation Councils. Approval has been given to use the same tax consultant who assisted staff previously. A joint CP I and CP II meeting will be scheduled so the tax consultant can address specific tax related questions. All questions will be submitted in advance so there is ample time for research if needed. The Independent Contractor Agreement will go into effect right after Labor Day when the new programs begin.
- Distributed Staff Re-assignment and Promotion memo announcing the promotion of Mr. Gary Stromberg, Acting Deputy Director for Developed Regional Parks to Deputy Director of Community Parks II Division, and the re-assignment of Mr. Mauro Garcia, current Deputy Director of Community Parks II Division to Developed Regional Parks Deputy Director.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. General Plan Update – Recreation Element

Mr. Randy Rodriguez, Planning Department, introduced Ms. Deborah Sharpe and Mr. Howard Greenstein from the Park Planning and Development Division, Park and Recreation Department. Mr. Rodriguez explained that the purpose of the presentation today is to update the Board members on the changes that have occurred since the Draft General Plan was first presented in July of 2005.

Mr. Rodriguez reported that the General Plan provides the basis to guide the growth and development in a community and the ground rules regarding how and where a community can grow. It affords an opportunity to comprehensively update the City's long-range blueprint for development over the next 20 – 25 years. Mr. Rodriguez also described the 10 elements that will be an integral part of the General Plan (all are described in the report and handouts provided at the meeting). He described the City of Villages strategy and how each "village" will contain a mixture of housing, commercial and public uses, and will be tailored to meet the needs of the community's character. Input has been received from Land Use & Housing, Planning Commission, Community Planning Groups, various stakeholders, workshops, mass e-mail distributions and various public meetings. Mr. Rodriguez provided an overview of the components that make up the Recreation Element and explained briefly how equivalencies can be used when park acreage is not available, which Ms. Sharpe and Mr. Greenstein will detail in their report. Finally, the Recreation Element update will provide the foundation to prepare a comprehensive, city-wide Parks Master Plan.

Mr. Greenstein explained that due to the constraints related to land availability and economics, especially in the older more urbanized areas of the city, alternative methods of providing recreation facilities need to be available to achieve city-wide equity when the ability to comply with guidelines is not feasible, or to satisfy a specific community need or request where flexibility is required. This could occur in the form of Equivalencies. Simply put, Equivalencies are a last resort as they do not add any new land for developing recreation facilities or parks. However, what they can do is add improvements to an existing facility or park that could extend the hours a park or recreation facility is used, thereby, meeting the needs of the community and satisfying the park to population ratio. Equivalencies should only be considered after it has been determined that a park and/or recreation facility is not feasible. Mr. Greenstein referenced the two hand-outs (Population-Based Park Acreage Equivalencies: Alternatives and Enhancements Implementation Criteria; and, Table RE-3 Park and Recreation Guidelines and Equivalencies) that discuss Equivalencies including Section F13 on Page 29 of the staff report. These reports provide detailed information on Equivalencies and how developer credits would be applied.

Mr. Greenstein asked the Board to make a recommendation on whether Equivalencies should be encouraged by providing a higher percentage of credits or should they be discouraged by assigning a lower percentage of credits? He also reminded the Board that this is a work in progress, therefore, all recommendations and suggestions are appreciated and will be considered.

Ms. Sharpe provided additional information regarding the use of Alternatives and Enhancements and how they can be used as credit towards satisfying the population-based park acreage requirements, a maximum of once per site or improvement, and according to certain Park

and Recreation Department criteria. Ms. Sharpe referenced the hand-out from the April 20 Board meeting that uses Balboa Park as an example of how a percentage of a Resource-based park could be used as an Alternative to satisfy population-based park standards due to the lack of any new park acreage in the surrounding communities. Ms. Sharpe explained that the current General Plan Standard for population-based parks is 2.8 acres per 1000 residents and that the Park Planning Division's inventory reflects this figure. If the standard is reduced in the future to 2.4 acres, this would result in a lesser deficit or surplus of park space and new calculations would need to be done. Ms. Sharpe provided additional examples of Alternatives and Enhancements and explained the formula used to calculate how developer credits would apply to each. More detailed information is provided in the report and hand-outs that were available at the meeting.

Acting Chair Barnes opened the floor to comments.

After a long discussion, the Board members concluded that they did not agree with the concept of using Enhancements and Alternatives as a means to compensate for the lack of additional park land. Overall they felt that this could eventually result in never having any new parkland, especially in very urbanized areas, so the goal now should be to acquire land whenever there is that opportunity so that these areas do not become more park deficient in the future. They also felt that each community should be given the opportunity to hear what all of their options are so that they can make the decision about what they want and if an Enhancement or Alternative is the best choice for their community, they can decide on that themselves but it should not take the place of any land that could be used to build a new park or recreation facility.

In response to additional questions from the Board, Ms. Sharpe explained that the 20th & B Street Service Yard is dedicated Balboa Park parkland. Now that a possible funding source has been identified, and once the current uses can be relocated, the long planned for Pershing Sports Complex might become a reality.

Ms. April Penner, Park Planning and Development Deputy Director, is in the process of having staff research the 4 acre parcel in front of San Diego City College to determine the current status of this property.

Other comments included not using public land for any private use and limiting commercial use that can be provided someplace else. Negotiate more equitable joint use agreements between the San Diego Unified School District and the Park and Recreation Department to more fairly balance the operational costs between both entities.

Mr. Mazzella requested that there be a presentation at next month's Board meeting on Developer Impact Fees (DIF). Prior to the June 15 Park and Recreation Board meeting, Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mazzella will coordinate a joint meeting of CP I and CP II and their Recreation Council

members to discuss DIF. Ms. LoMedico will assist with dates and a meeting location.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Area Committee CP I

No report.

Area Committee CP II

No report.

Mr. Robinson was concerned that Mt. Hope Cemetery staff are misinterpreting the Low Income Fee Waiver Policy for stackable burials. According to Mr. Robinson, only the bottom burial fee is being waived but fees are being charged for the top burial which is not following policy. He has met with District Manager Tom Wood and Mt. Hope Cemetery Manager David Lugo. He stated that only one section of the cemetery is being offered to fee waiver families and feels that they should be able to choose any location within the cemetery. Mr. Robinson is requesting a follow-up report on both items. Mr. Robinson had other concerns unrelated to this meeting that will be addressed by staff.

Balboa Park Committee

Mr. Mazzella reported that he has asked a representative of the San Diego Police Department to speak to the Balboa Park Committee regarding criminal activity that he has personally observed in Balboa Park.

Acting Chair Barnes also reported on the May 12 Pit Bull attack at Grape Street Park. She will forward an e-mail to the Board members regarding this incident.

Design Review Committee

No meeting.

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee

No representative.

Mission Bay Park Committee

No report.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

No report.

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

No representative.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is: Thursday, June 15, 2006, 2:00 p.m.

City Administration Building
Council Committee Room
202 "C" Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Submitted by,

Stacey LoMedico
(Acting) Staff Representative

SL:sp

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